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Jackie Kennedy's plea to Khrushchev

By Hugo Gurdon in Washington

JACQUELINE Kennedy wrote to Nikita Khrushchev nine days after her husband was assassinated, urging him to show "restraint" during a time of instability, Soviet documents showed yesterday.

"You and he were adversaries," she wrote in a letter dated Dec 1, 1963, "but you were also allies in your determination not to let the world be blown up.

"I know that President Johnson will continue the policy my husband believed in so deeply — the policy of self-control and restraint — and he will need your help."

Mrs Kennedy's note was one of about 40 documents given by President Yeltsin to President Clinton at a summit in Cologne in June. The newly released papers included a copy of a hand-written letter from Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin, asking for Soviet citizenship in 1959. He was allowed to stay in the Soviet Union, but was never given citizenship.